

**Comments on  
the Bonneville Power Administration's  
Long-Term Regional Dialogue Policy Proposal**

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On behalf of Climate Solutions, we thank you for this opportunity to comment. We support the detailed comments of the Northwest Energy Coalition, and offer the following additional challenge.

The Bonneville Power Administration – and the regional energy system it manages – stands as one of the nation’s foremost examples of the power of long-term, collective public investment to build a brighter future. With the challenges of climate disruption and fossil fuel dependence now reaching crisis proportions, the need for ambitious, collective investment in a more sustainable energy future has never been greater.

The Federal Government in particular has a tremendous responsibility – and opportunity – to help Americans rise to this unprecedented challenge. With less than 5% of the world’s people, we produce fully a quarter of all global warming pollution. Yet our federal government stands resolutely on the sidelines of the international campaign for solutions.

Given its assets, its rich history, and its culture of public service, BPA could – and should – be in the forefront of a national mobilization for climate solutions, energy independence, and sustainable prosperity in the transition to clean energy. This mission is every bit as important to the region’s – and the nation’s -- future as the original mission for which the agency was created. And it’s a mission for which BPA is eminently qualified.

The climate crisis is now upon us – along with related national security and economic disruptions associated with our crippling and growing dependence on fossil fuels. The world’s climate scientists have reached the conclusion that we must act quickly to avoid catastrophic disruptions. That conclusion is the product of the most comprehensive and exhaustively peer-reviewed research collaboration in the history of science.

We will rise to this challenge, because the costs of failing to do so will continue assert themselves in increasingly painful ways until we change course. And when we do, we will need to mount a national mobilization of public will and private investment on a par with World War II. BPA’s resources, infrastructure, and history of public service are exactly the tools we will need to lead and sustain this mobilization.

Will the Long-Term Regional Dialogue Policy Proposal position BPA better to play this role? Or will it hamstring the agency, liquidating precisely the assets the region and the nation will so desperately need as we rise to this challenge?

We realize that this is not the perspective or the context in which the Agency typically considers its mission and actions. But the objective reality of climate disruption and fossil fuel dependence will impose this context upon us until we do something about it.

BPA has what it takes to help us rise to the most formidable challenge our generation will face – and the greatest opportunity we will ever have to build a sustainable prosperity. If this agency devolves into managing periodic tussles over how we allocate the benefits of our grandparents foresight, it will be a tragic loss. We need to muster the same kind of wisdom and determination and capacity for long-term investment that produced the federal power and transmission systems, not just rest on our laurels.

We should do as well by our grandkids as our grandparents did by us when they built the system. We urge you to run your decisions in this process through that screen.